



MI Power Grid is a customer-focused, multi-year stakeholder initiative established by Governor Whitmer in collaboration with the Michigan Public Service Commission to maximize the benefits of the transition to clean, distributed energy resources for Michigan residents and businesses. The initiative includes outreach, education, and changes to utility regulation designed to ensure that the state's clean energy future provides safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible energy resources. MI Power Grid will achieve this by focusing on three areas of emphasis:



Customer Engagement



Integrating Emerging Technologies



Optimizing Grid Performance and Investments

This initiative is timed to complement the many consumer benefits emerging during the exciting transformation already underway in the energy industry. Customers are being offered new options to support cleaner sources of electricity, like solar and wind, and better tools to manage energy costs, such as energy waste reduction



and demand response programs. Modernizing our energy infrastructure can improve reliability, cut energy waste, and integrate new technologies like smart sensors and controls, electric vehicles, and energy storage.

MI Power Grid will ensure Michigan residents and businesses are equipped with the tools and information to receive the full benefits of this change. This will be done through new clean energy programs and rates, advancement in how energy infrastructure is planned to meet customer needs, and updated regulations to improve customer service and reliability.



MI Power Grid seeks to engage a variety of stakeholders including utilities, energy technology companies, customers, consumer advocates, state agencies and others. Stakeholder groups will be formed and led by MPSC Staff.

MI Power Grid will consist of facilitated discussion and educational sessions for stakeholders, as well as other opportunities for input and learning about how Michigan should best adapt to the changing energy industry. Individual workgroups will have specific plans with milestones and schedules identified. MPSC Staff will submit a status report on September 30, 2020, regarding actions to date, workgroup status updates, and initial recommendations. A final MPSC Staff report is expected in middle to late 2021.



Customer Engagement

Customer Education and Participation – Focus on educating customers and facilitating participation in new demand-side technologies, energy efficiency programs, demand response offerings, time-based pricing and other related programs.

Innovative Rate Offerings – Ensure that customers can make informed choices about available rate options including time-based pricing, distributed generation rates, and voluntary green pricing tariffs.

Demand Response – Increase demand response participation, improve performance and communications, and review and update emergency operations procedures.

Energy Programs and Technology Pilots – Develop objective criteria to utilize when evaluating proposed utility pilot projects and identify potential areas for additional pilot program proposals.



Integrating Emerging Technologies

Interconnection Standards and Worker Safety – Establish updated interconnection rules that provide a standardized process and schedule to ensure that all interconnections are completed safely and in a timely manner.

Data Access and Privacy – Determine how to make distribution system information available to customers to make informed decisions about where to interconnect distributed generation and also monitor customer data access and privacy issues for potential recommendations and updates when necessary.

Competitive Procurement – Continue to monitor current utility competitive solicitation processes utilized to secure new generation resources and identify best practices to develop procedures and rules applicable to regulated utilities.

New Technologies and Business Models – Analyze the capabilities and market access for newer technologies such as electric vehicles and storage to develop recommendations to capture potential benefits in pilots and other state initiatives, as well as cases before the Commission.

Optimizing Grid Investments and Performance

Financial Incentives/Disincentives – Work with stakeholders to analyze and evaluate appropriate incentive/disincentive methodologies such as performance-based ratemaking, power purchase agreement incentive options and shared savings mechanisms to ensure that utility investments benefit their customers.

Grid Security and Reliability Metrics – Work with stakeholders to update both the Service Quality and Reliability Rules and the Technical Standards for Electric Service to ensure utilities meet certain levels of performance and to enhance customer service and the physical and cyber security of utility infrastructure.

Advanced Planning Processes – Workgroups will be held to discuss the value of electric generation diversity, the value of resilience, updates to future IRP requirements, and how to coordinate better alignment of electric transmission, distribution and generation planning efforts.

